

A Report on Tobacco Use Rates for West Virginia Youth

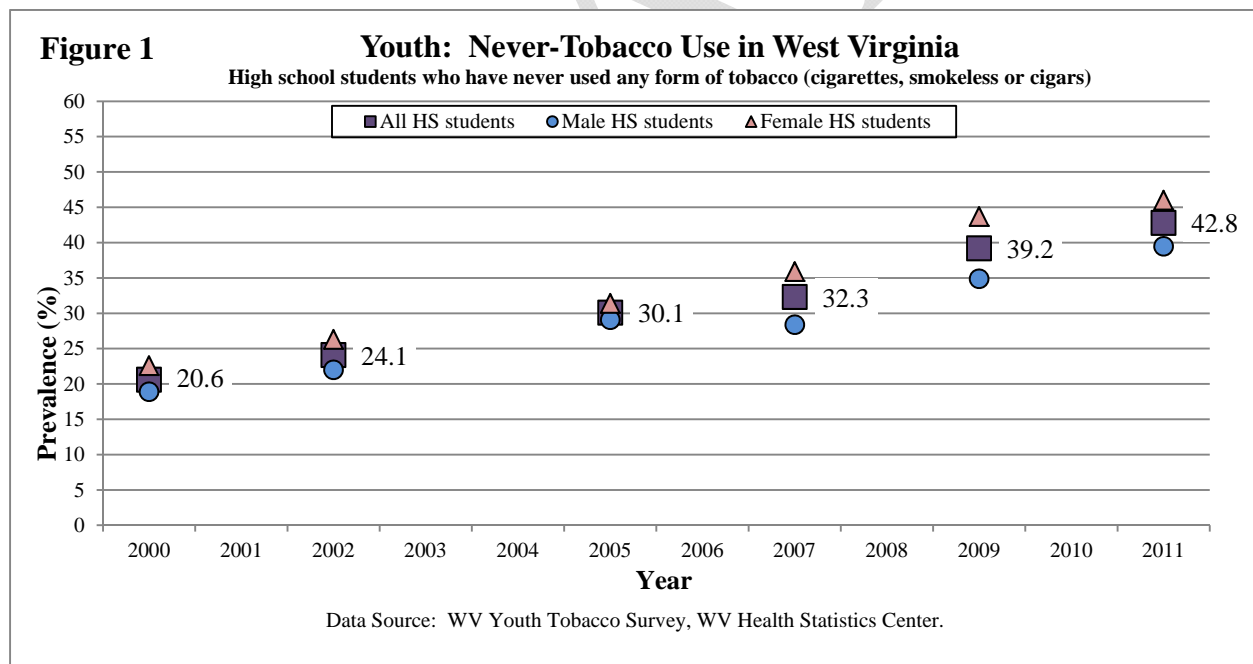
WV Youth Tobacco Survey 2000 to 2011

The West Virginia Division of Tobacco Prevention (DTP) collaborates with state and federal partners to promote tobacco use prevention, cessation, and smoke-free air in West Virginia schools, businesses, health care settings, and communities. In recent years, successes have been achieved in reducing smoking among youth and implementing clean indoor air policies across the state. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, sustained investments in comprehensive tobacco control programs can decrease smoking prevalence, prevent millions of premature deaths, and save billions of dollars. DTP and the West Virginia Health Statistics Center collaborated to publish the *2007 & 2009 Youth Tobacco Survey Report*, which outlines the prevalence of tobacco use among middle school and high school students in West Virginia. This summary presents key findings from the report, which can be accessed at websites listed at the end of this summary, plus the latest data from 2011.

Tobacco Use

Experimenting with tobacco use has long been perceived as a rite of passage for the turbulent teenage years, but in West Virginia that is reversing. We are witnessing a new generation who are making the tobacco-free choice:

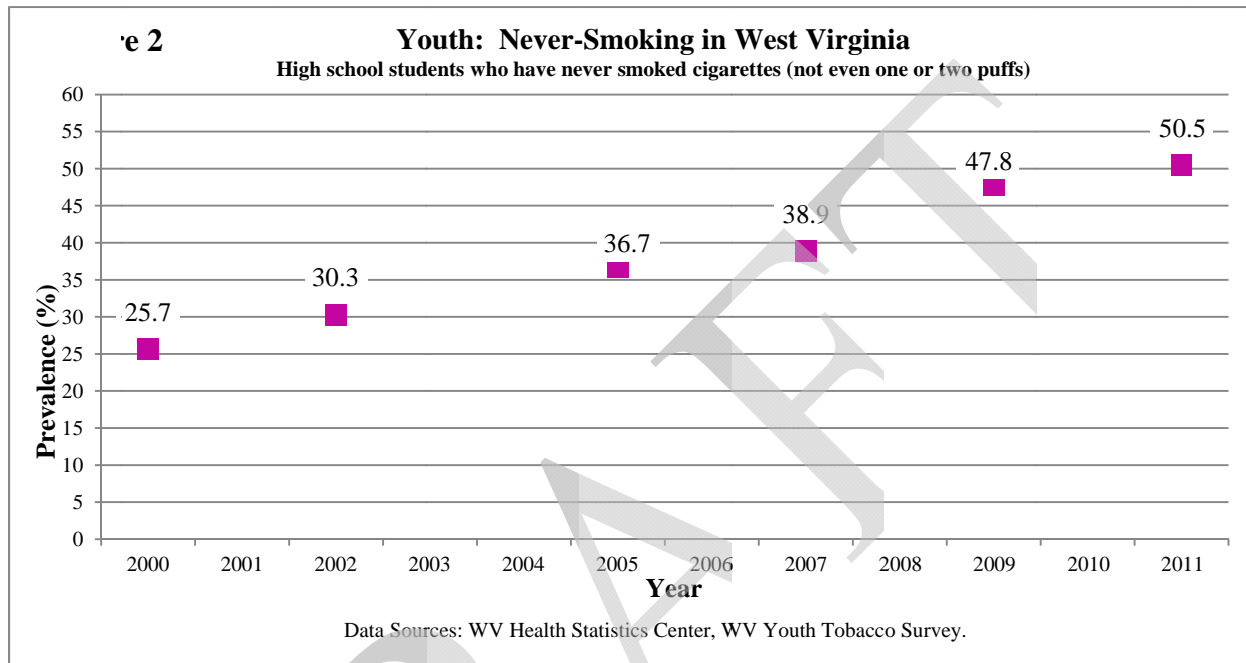
- Current tobacco use (use of any tobacco product within the last 30 days) has decreased significantly from 2000 to 2011 among both middle school students (a decline of 46%, from 24.8% to 13.3%) and high school students (a decline of 33%, from 47.7% to 31.9%).
- Never-tobacco use (students who have *never tried or used* cigarettes, smokeless tobacco or cigars) has increased significantly during 2000 to 2011 for both middle school students (an increase of 50%, from 46.0% to 69.1%), and high school students (an increase of 108%, from 20.6% to 42.8%).



Cigarette Smoking

The declines in current cigarette smoking among WV middle school and high school students have been significant during 2000 to 2011. The WV high school decline in cigarette smoking has been slightly greater than what we have witnessed for the U.S. through the National Youth Tobacco Survey. While current cigarette smoking among youth has significantly decreased, there has been no significant decrease in current smoking among the WV adult population (18+ years) from 2000 to 2010.

- Current cigarette smoking has decreased significantly from 2000 to 2011 among both middle school students (a decline of 54%, from 18.1% to 8.3%) and high school students (a decline of 42%, from 38.5% to 22.4%). Significant decreases were also seen during this time frame in the prevalence of frequent smoking (20+ days per month) and daily smoking among high school students.
- Never-cigarette smokers (students who have *never* tried or used cigarettes) has increased significantly during 2000 to 2011 for both middle school students (an increase of 41%, from 53.1% to 75.1%), and high school students (an increase of 96%, from 25.7% to 50.5%). For the first time since the survey began, the never-cigarette smokers outnumber the students who have ever smoked or currently smoke.



Smokeless Tobacco Use among Males

From 2000 to 2011 there was a significant increase among males in middle school who had never tried smokeless tobacco (an increase of 19%, from 68.3% to 81.6%). However, no significant improvements were seen for high school males. The prevalence of current smokeless tobacco use among middle school males and high school males did not change during this period.

Cigar and Pipe Smoking

The prevalences of cigar and pipe smoking among middle school and high school students is at significantly lower levels than cigarette smoking or smokeless tobacco. Data is available, but does not warrant reporting here.

Access the full *2007 & 2009 West Virginia Youth Tobacco Survey Report* at the websites below under *Publications*. Additional analysis of YTS data will be done in the near future and will be posted on the websites as it becomes available.



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